CAIRO MILESTONE GOES UNNOTICED
By KENNETT LOVESpecial to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Jun 20, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
pg. 10

CAIRO MILESTONE GOES UNNOTICED

Only Naguib Issues Statement on the First Anniversary of Egyptian Republic

By KENNETT LOVE
Special to The New York Times.

CAIRO, June 19—The first anniversary of the proclamation that Egypt was a republic passed yesterday uncelebrated but not entirely unnoticed. In fact, most of the notice was drawn to the lack of celebration.

The only observance today was a statement by President Mohammed Naguib, who was ousted from office four months ago and then regained it, only to be quickly relegated to a purely ceremonial function after having lost the struggle for power with the Premier, Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser.

The President had a difficult time getting permission for the publication of this statement, and it was granted only on condition that no photographs of him be printed with it.

It was during General Naguib's brief ascendancy that the ruling Revolution Command Council promised to restore civilian constitutional government. In the minds of much of the populace this meant a return to the corruption of the previous regime under former King Farouk.

The ruling army junta still is going through the motions of creating a national consultative assembly, but has no intention of relinquishing any of its power and apparently does not desire to call attention to the change in its policy that occurred when the Naguib faction was defeated.

At a press reception last night General Naguib remarked that he had nothing to do with the policy. Maj. Salah Salem, Minister of National Guidance, then said that General Naguib was the head of the Revolution Command Council, which controls policy, and that he thus had full control over it. Thus the President was charged publicly but not practically with responsibility for the trial of sixteen officers accused of plotting against the junta, as well as for the rejected promise to return to parliamentary government.

Major Salem went on to say that the Government had no real information about "rumors" that the Suez negotiations with Britain were about to resume. He said: "We reached a few points of difference last October [when the talks were officially suspended], and we will not compromise on them. If the other side concedes to our position the problem will be solved."

Major Salem also said his forthcoming visit to Lebanon would be similar to his recent trip to Saudi Arabia. When he returned from Saudi Arabia he announced that the defensive resources of the two countries would be pooled.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.